



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release AUGUST 15, 1958

CHANGES AND CLARIFICATIONS ISSUED ON BASIC WATERFOWL REGULATIONS

Clarifying changes in the basic waterfowl regulations, including the definition of "baiting" and "baited areas", have been announced by the Department of the Interior.

The revised regulations also provide that commercial picking establishments keep records of the migratory game birds they process. The revisions contain a prohibition against persons without permits transporting or possessing live migratory game birds. The language of the section on the shipment of migratory game birds from Canada has been revised to make it clear that such birds may be imported with or without heads or feet attached.

Officials of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, declare that the prohibition against the transportation of live migratory game birds without permit is a necessary enforcement measure. They cite the tendency to build up captive flocks and then use these flocks and the feed distributed for the flocks for decoy purposes.

Experience has also shown, these officials say, that enforcement will be more effective if commercial pickers have the same reporting requirements now in effect for cold storage and locker plants.

The revised definition of "baiting" and "baited areas" is as follows:

"As used in this subparagraph, 'baiting' shall mean the placing, exposing, depositing, distributing or scattering of shelled, shucked, or unshucked corn, wheat or other grain, salt or other feed so as to constitute for such birds a lure, attraction or enticement to, on or over any area where hunters are attempting to take them; and 'baited area' means any area where shelled, shucked, or unshucked corn, wheat or other grain, salt or any other feed whatsoever capable of attracting such birds is directly or indirectly placed, exposed, deposited, distributed or scattered. Nothing in this subparagraph shall prohibit the taking of such birds over standing crops, flooded standing crops (including aquatics), flooded harvested croplands, grain crops properly shocked on the field where grown, or grains found scattered solely as the result of normal agricultural harvesting."

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